

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SOTCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, NO

SUBJ: STATUS OF NORWAY'S CONTIGUOUS TRAWL FREE ZONE PROPOSAL

APRIS ALSO FOR OECD

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

REF: (A) OSLO 241, (B) OSLO 5335, DEC 9, 1974, (C) OSLO A-15

1. NORWAY REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC ON ITS TRAWL FREE ZONES
ON JANUARY 24. THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION
OF NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON WITH THE U.K., WEST GERMANY AND
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FRANCE WHICH ESTABLISHED THE SIZE AND ANNUAL DURATION OF

THE ZONES. THE AGREEMENT IS SOMEWHAT MORE MODEST THAN NORWAY'S REVISED PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER 19--SEE PARA. 5 REFTEL B-- PRINCIPALLY AS A RESULT OF A REDUCTION OF ABOUT ONE SEVENTH IN THE AREA OF THE SOUTHERNMOST ZONE AND IN THE LENGTH OF TIME EACH YEAR (FIVE MONTHS) THE ZONES WILL BE TRAWL FREE. DETAILS OF THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF THE ZONES ARE CONTAINED IN OSLO A-15 OF 31 JAN 75.

2. ON JURISDICTION, THE FOUR COUNTRY SETTLEMENT PROVIDES THAT NORWEGIAN SURVEILLANCE SHIPS CAN STOP, BOARD, INSPECT, AND ORDER TO LEAVE ANY FOREIGN TRAWLERS FOUND IN THE ZONES BELIEVED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF TH TRAWLING PROHIBITION. NORWAY MAY NOT ARREST OR PENALIZE VIOLATORS. IN RETURN U.K., FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY UNDERTOOK TO SEE THAT THEIR TRAWLERS WOULD RESPECT NORWAY'S TRAWL FREE ZONE AND TO PENALIZE ANY VIOLATORS. THE AGREEMENT IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO NORWAY'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A 50-MILE FISHING LIMIT IN 1975. IT CAN BE TERMINATED ON FOUR MONTHS NOTICE.

3. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EEC FOCUSED ON THE EEC'S WISH TO HAVE A FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY. THIS WOULD ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT WHEN NORWAY ATTEMPTED TO NEGOTIATE ITS 50-MILE FISHING LIMIT. NORWAY AND BRITIAN FISH OFF EACH OTHER'S COASTS AND WILL BE TEMPTED TO NEGOTIATE HBILATERALLY ON THIS ISSUE. A FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EEC AND NORWAY COULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR BRITIAN AND NORWAY NOT TO SHARE CONCESSIONS WITH ALL EEC MEMBERS. THE COMPROMISE WORKED OUT PROVIDED FOR AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE NORWEGIANS FELT THAT THEY AHD TO GO THIS FAR IN ORDER TO GET ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR TRAWL FREE ZONES BY ALL EEC MEMBERS AND TO AVOID DIFFICULTY OVER THE FISH IMPORT LETTE WHCIH GIVES NORWAY TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON FISH EXPORTS TO THE EEC.

4. THE TRAWL FREE ZONES WILL BE DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 29. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEBATE AND ON THE SAME DAY IT IS PLANNED TO EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH THE EEC. ON JANUARY 30 NOTES ARE TO BE EXCHANGED WITH THE U.K. WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITH THE USSR, POLAND, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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EAST GERMANY. A ROYAL DECREE, IS TO BE ISSUED ON JANUARY 31 ESTABLISHING THE ZONES, BASED ON ENABLING LEGISLATION ALREADY PASSED BY PARLIAMENT.

5. ALTHOUGH THE ORIGINAL NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL WAS FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THAT AGREED UPON MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WAS PROBABLY ADVANCED FOR NEGOTIATING PRUPOSES. THE KEY AREA FOR NORWAY WAS THE SOUTHERN JANNEGGA-

MALANGSGRUNNEN BANK, AND AT ONE POINT NORWAY WAS CONSIDER-
ING PROPOSING THAT ONLY THIS AREA BE MADE TRAWL FREE.
EVENSEN' PRESTIGE WILL PROBABLY BE ENHANCED BY THE SETTLE-
MENT, ALTHOUGH HE IS BEING CRITICIZED FOR BEING TOO OPTIMISTIC
INITIALLY AND FOR CONCEDED TOO MUCH. THE SOVIETS ALSO SCORED
SOME PUBLIC RELATIONS POINTS IN NORWAY BY BEING THE FIRST TO
AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT, SUBJECT ONLY TO CONCLUSION BY NORWAY
OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.K. WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE NO MORE
FAVORABLE TO NORWAY.

6. IN INTRODUCING NEW RESTRICTIONS ON FISHING, NORWAY HAS
IRRITATED SOME OF ITS ALLIES BY PUTTING DOMESTIC POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS AHEAD OF ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO
SHOW RESTRAINT ON THE EVE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
IN MARCH. MINISTER EVENSEN MET WITH SOME UNDERSTANDING IN HIS
NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE UK, FRG AND FRANCE ALL RECOGNIZED
THAT THE TRAWL-FREE ZONE PROPOSAL REPRESENTED A TACTICAL MANEUVER
TO DISARM DOMESTIC CRITICS WHO ARE PRESSING FOR THE EXTENSION
OF FISHING LIMITS TO 50 NAUTICAL MILES. IN THE FACE OF
CONTINUING AGITATION ON THIS QUESTION, EVENSEN FELT COMPELLED
IN A STATEMENT TO THE STARTING JANUARY 29 TO CRITICIZE THOSE WHO
LIGHTLY CALLED FOR UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF FISHERY LIMITS, TO WARN
THAT UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS COULD CREATE CONFLICT SITUATIONS WITH
NORWAY'S EASTERN AND WESTERN NEIGHBORS, AND TO INSIST THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM ONLY THROUGH NEGOTI-
ATIONS. HE OBVIOUSLY LEARNED DURING HIS NEGOTIATIONS THAT A MOVE TO
A 50-MILE FISHING LIMIT WOULD BE MET WITH CONSIDERABLE LESS SYM-
PATHY THAN THE TRAWL -FREE ZONES. HIS STATEMENT ON THE 50-MILE
LIMIT COUNTERS CRITICISM THAT HE WAS TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE
EASE OF GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THE ZONES AND GIVES HIM AN OUT
IF HE FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET AGREEMENT ON A 50 MILE LIMIT
IN 1975

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